

2015

The Philippines Digital Project

Scott, Blair

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The Philippines Digital Project

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Welcome to the Philippines Digital Project!



The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor contains some of the strongest collections of Philippine documents in North America. The Worcester Philippine History Collection, the Bentley Historical Library American-Philippine Relations Collection, the Museum of Anthropology, and other materials are all located right in the heart of Ann Arbor. Engagement with this material continues today, with a number of scholars visiting every year to use our unique collections. Despite these strengths, the field of Philippine Studies has historically been limited to political, economic, and military history of its colonial past. Added to the fact that most repositories of Philippine documents are scattered, incomplete, or small, a large portion of Philippine life has been neglected in scholarly work.

The purpose of the Philippines Digital Project is to fill this gap by providing a comprehensive list of all Philippine collections here in the United States for undergraduate students, master's and PhD candidates, and faculty and enthusiasts. The project aims to link recently digitized resources from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines with existing collections at the University of Michigan. Lastly, certain pages on this website will highlight overlooked materials at the University of Michigan for students and scholars who would otherwise be unaware of such sources. This is detailed further under the 'Hidden Highlights' tab.

We hope you enjoy this resource and all it has to offer.

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The Philippines Digital Project was created as a component of the Michigan Library Scholars internship program at the University of Michigan Library. Four U-M undergraduates were selected to work with a mentor on a major research project for the Spring/Summer term of 2015. Undergraduate student Blair Scott and Southeast Asian Librarian Fe Susan Go collaborated closely to create the foundations of a comprehensive research guide for Philippine Studies undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and scholars.

The project had a range of tasks in order to make this website possible. Interviews with the Bentley Historical Library, William L. Clements Library, and Special Collections enabled us to develop our own acquisitions process by mimicking our own institutions here. Extensive work with the materials highlighted on this website was required in order to provide the most accurate analysis possible for scholars. This website is just one of the many components of a movement to reexamine the shared social history of Americans and Filipinos during the American Colonial Period. For the future, we hope to expand this website by investigating more of the William L. Clements' Library uncataloged materials on the Philippines, as well as expanding our search for Philippine materials to Filipino or Filipino-American organizations in Michigan, as well as local historical societies.

The project was made possible by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and support from the International Studies department of the University of Michigan Library.

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Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan

Links!

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Technical Infrastructure

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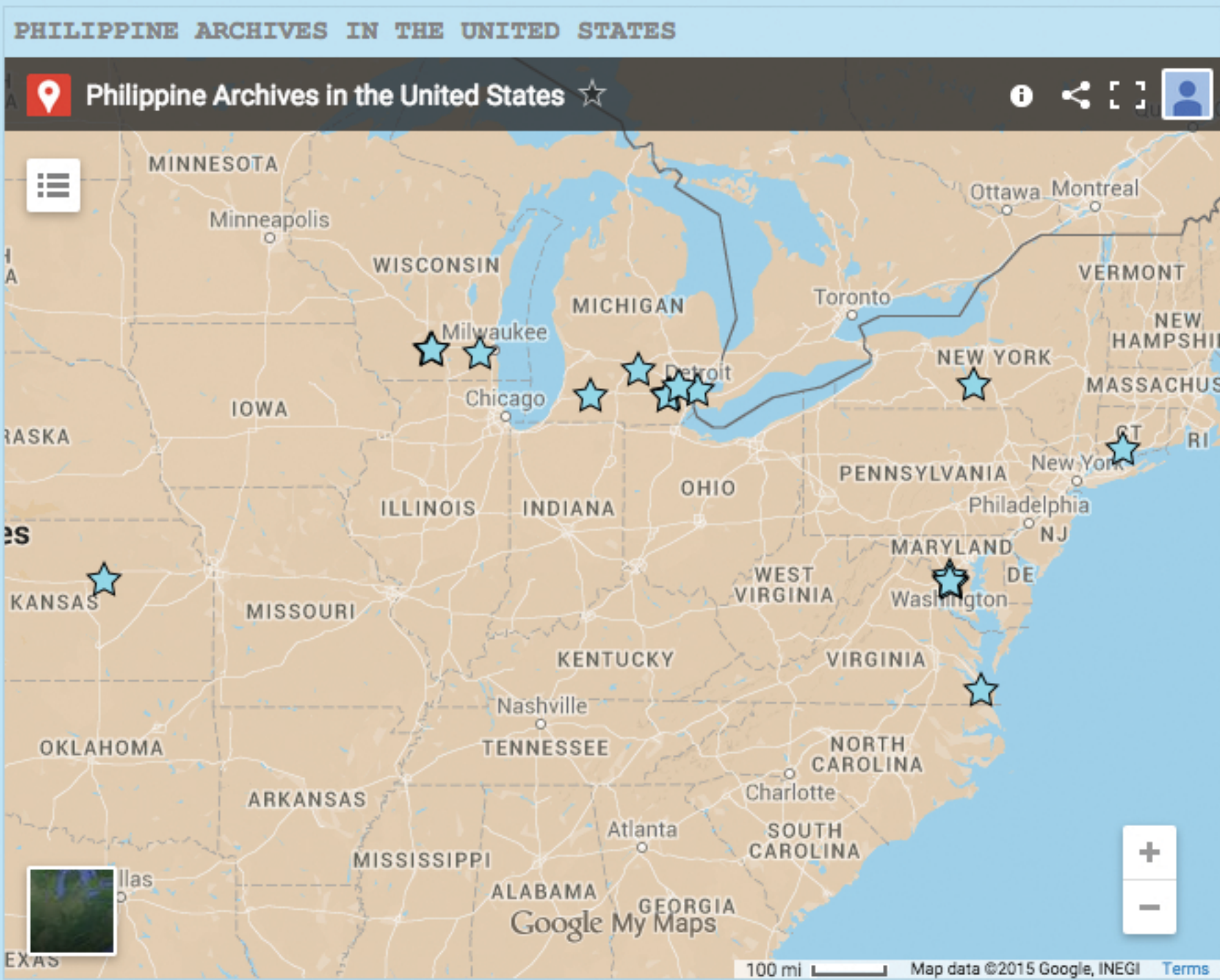
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Archives in the United States >

Interactive Map



- This map details the locations of Philippine archives, libraries, special collections, historical societies, museums, and etc. in the United States.
- Click on a marker to view a repository and a brief summary and links. You can also click on the bulleted list icon in the top left corner to view a drop down menu of all repositories on the map. Click on the name of a repository to be taken to the location of the repository on the map.
- Use the + and - icons to zoom in and out in the bottom right hand corner of the map. Zoom in to see more detail. Some locations have multiple repositories, such as the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.
- Navigate by clicking and dragging with your mouse.
- Alternatively, use the Advanced Search option under our Search bar on the left hand side of this website.
- If the map is not functioning properly, please let us know by accessing our contact information under 'Contact Us'.

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Virginia

District of Columbia

- Library of Congress
 - Various manuscripts relating to political history, military history, and World War II POW accounts in Japanese internment camps.
- Moorland Spingarn Research Center, Howard University
 - Contains the papers of African-American Walter Howard Loving, most famous for organizing the Philippine Constabulary Band. A full finding aid is available online here.
- National Museum of Health and Medicine
 - Contains the Ash, Mills, and Maus collections. Primary involves medical and public health records in the Philippines. Both the Mills and Maus collections have online finding aids, while the Ash collection does not.
- Smithsonian Institution Archives
 - Materials primarily pertaining to the history of American scientists, with some materials on scientific research in the Philippines. Full finding aids are available online.
- U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office
 - Contains the Florence Ebersole Smith Finch and Robert Smith oral history interviews. Florence E. Finch was a Filipino-American member of the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II. Robert Smith was a World War II veteran who served in Subic Bay at the end of the War. No findings aids online; available in the Manuscript Collection by appointment only.

Michigan

- American-Philippine Relations, Bentley Historical Library (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - A rich collection of manuscripts, correspondence, and photographs, primarily focusing on Michigan citizens and University of Michigan alumni in the Philippines. Highlights include the Frank Murphy papers, who served as governor-general and High Commissioner to the Philippines.
- Dean C. Worcester Photograph Collection, The University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - The Dean C. Worcester Collection consists of more than 4,700 glass plate photographic negatives and prints taken in the Philippines between 1890 and 1913, by Dean C. Worcester and colleagues. Worcester was an avid photographers, and he and his staff took nearly 16,000 photographs between 1890 and 1913 documenting indigenous Philippine communities and traditional life ways as well as activities of the colonial administration.
- The Worcester Philippine History Collection, University of Michigan Special Collections (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - This collection contains over seventeen hundred books, manuscripts, and photographs of various areas of Philippine history. Emphasis is placed on the period between 1899 and 1913. The collection was started by Dean C. Worcester, former member of the United States Philippine Commission and secretary of the interior for the Insular Government of the Philippine Islands.
- William L. Clements Library (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - The William L. Clements Library contains a number of manuscripts of American accounts of time in the Philippines. The majority of these materials can be found online through the Manuscripts Division, however a number of materials are uncataloged. Highlights include the Mary Alice Foley papers and the Schlereth family collection detailing internment life at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. Contact information for the Clements Library can be found on their website.
- Burton Historical Collection (Detroit, MI)
 - The Burton Historical Collection contains four soldiers' accounts of their time in the Philippines. All four of the papers pertain to Frank Murphy's service in the Philippines. Two of these papers (Edward G. Kemp and Joseph Edward Mills) have online finding aids, while two do not (Hester Everard letters and Norman H. Hill papers).
- Porter family papers, Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (East Lansing, MI)
 - Collection contains letters between family members primarily dealing with family concerns. Porter's letters from his time in the Philippines during the American occupation (1920-1912) might be of interest to researchers. His letters describe dissatisfaction with army life, as well as the army's attempts to quell native uprisings. A full finding aid is available online here. \
- Clyde Schoonmaker collection, Western Michigan University Library (Kalamazoo, MI)
 - Letters which pertain to Mr. Schoonmaker's service during the Spanish-American War and in the Philippines. Also contains 23 photographs. A partial finding aid is available online here.
- Thayer family papers, Northville Historical Society (Northville, MI)
 - Although the Northville Historical Society has limited hours and requires an appointment, the Thayer family papers might be of interest to a Philippine Studies scholar. The papers contains correspondence from a family member in the Philippines during the early 20th century.

Wisconsin

- Southeast Asian Images and Texts Online Exhibit, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - The online exhibit brings together research and teaching materials collected by Wisconsin faculty and staff, as well as unique or valuable items held by the University of Wisconsin Libraries pertaining to Southeast Asia. Collections of interest are the E. Murray Bruner Philippine Image Collection, the Liberato Picar Philippines Military Academy Album, the Library of Congress Philippines Image Collection, and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Image Collection.
- Spanish-American War Collection, Wisconsin Veterans Museum (Madison, WI)
 - This collection contains personal narratives of various soldiers from Wisconsin during the Spanish-American and Filipino-American War. A full finding aid is available online.
- Wisconsin Historical Society (Madison, WI)
 - The Wisconsin Historical Society contains a number of genealogical documents of Wisconsin citizens who spent time in the Philippines. Of interest to researchers would the Jane Theresa Taylor photograph collection, which documents her activities as an Army nurse at the Mission Hospital in Davao, Mindanao, Philippines (ca. 1911-1918).
- Rufus and Charles King Collection, Carroll University (Waukesha, WI)
 - Consists primarily of correspondence, most of which is between family members. The majority of the family correspondence is letters from Charles King to his wife and daughter Carolyn about daily matters, his involvement in the Indian War of the American West and the Philippines, and battles with Native Americans.

Virginia

- James J. Halsema Collection of Philippine History, MacArthur Memorial Archives (Arlington, VA)
 - James J. Halsema was the song of E.J. Halsema, the colonial mayor of Baguio. During World War II, Halsema was captured and incarcerated in the interment camp at Camp Holmes, where he was tortured by Japanese forces. The collection is comprised of over three thousand books, two thousand maps, and the personal papers of James J. Halsema.

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List by Subject

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- 2 Missionaries in the Philippines
- 3 Science and Public Health
- 4 American Women in the Philippines
- 5 African-Americans in the Philippines
- 6 Religious and Ethnic Minorities
- 7 Prisoner of War Accounts during World War II

Although most Philippine collections in the United States primarily focus on military, economic, and political history, occasionally significant holdings related to other subjects can be found. It should be noted that this page merely draws attention to collections that contain materials related to other subjects--not entire collections. The purpose of this is to make the research process easier for scholars who are studying specialized subjects.

Education

Missionaries in the Philippines

Science and Public Health

American Women in the Philippines

African-Americans in the Philippines

Religious and Ethnic Minorities

Prisoner of War Accounts during World War II

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The Worcester Philippine History Collection

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The Philippine-American Collection and Other Materials

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William L. Clements Library

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University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

Worcester Photograph Collection and Goethe Collection, mostly ethnographic and material culture materials.

Comments

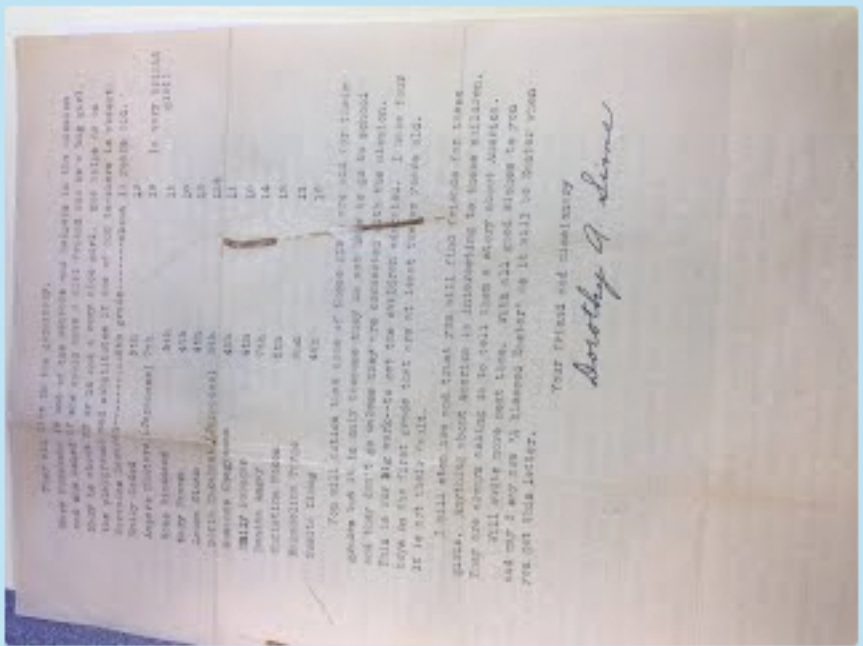
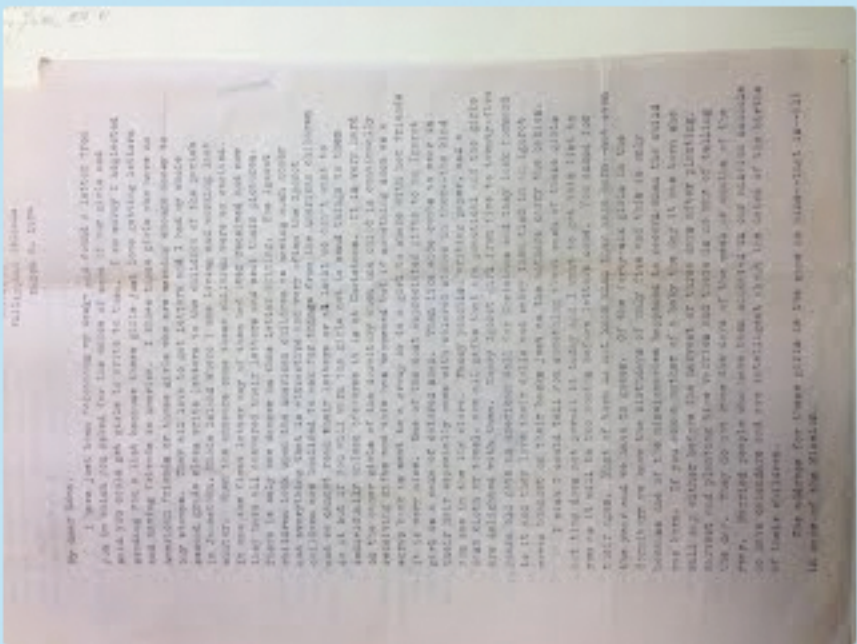
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Collections at the University of Michigan >

Dorothy A. Sims Letters and photos, 1938-1941

Dorothy A. Sims was a missionary at the All Saints Mission in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Ms. Sims describes her experiences working with Filipino children at the mission, and corresponds frequently with an American friend named Edna. In her March 8, 1939 letter, Ms. Sims requests Edna ask some girls to write letters with her Filipino students. Ms. Sims writes about the challenges of corresponding with 'wealthy' Americans for Filipino students, and how many of the students are old for their grade. This particular letter describes many of the issues in working in developing nations as a foreigner that are still present today, as well as insights into how young Filipino girls perceived Americans. That being said, because Ms. Sims is an authority figure and an American, her description does not provide the whole story, although there is undoubtedly some truth to her words.

Additionally, Ms. Sims' letters describe local life at the mission, such as the wedding of the local Friar, traveling in the Philippines as a woman, and studying to become a deaconess. Overall, Ms. Sims' letters are a fascinating look into missionary life in the Philippines, and an excellent source for scholars studying American women in the Philippines, missionary work, or the history of education.



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H.H. Bartlett Collection, c. 1899-1916

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- 3 [Translation of letter of Datto Mastula](#)

About the Collection

The H.H. Bartlett Collection contains one box of typescript copies of articles and reports concerning political and military events, as well as social issues. The documents are in both Spanish and English.

Among the documents in the collection, there is a significant number of documents detailing military and social conflicts with the Moros, also known as the Tausug. The Tausug are a Muslim ethnic group largely concentrated around the Mindanao province in the Philippines. Prior to the American occupation, the Tausug lived under the Sulu Sultanate. During the early years of the American occupation, tensions ran high between Filipinos and the Tausug, sometimes escalating into violent conflicts. The H.H. Bartlett Collection might be of interest to scholars studying Moro history in the Philippines, Filipino minorities under the American colonial period, or religious studies.

Col. William C. Rivers, "The Moro as a Factor in the Philippine Problem"

Translation of letter of Datto Mastula

Comments

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Parker Hitt Photograph Collection

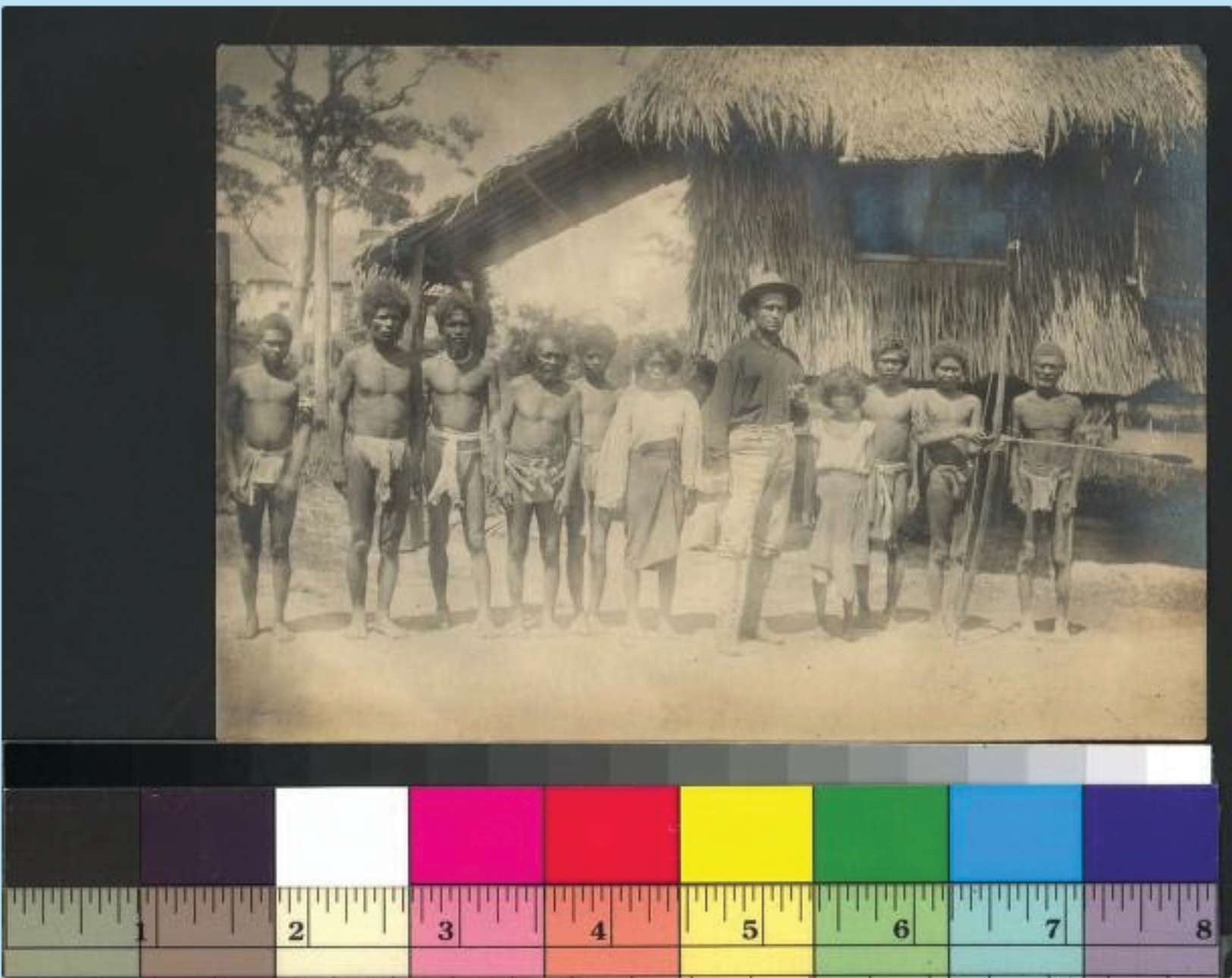
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- 1 About the Collection:
- 2 Americans and the Tausug: "Others" or Tourists?
- 3 Moro Houses and Daily Life
- 4 Dattos and Power
- 5 Market at Marahui

About the Collection:

Parker Hitt was a civil engineering student at Purdue University (Indiana) before joining the U.S. Army in 1898. He served in the Philippines, Alaska, and California. The collection consists of seven albumen cabinet cards with portraits of Parker Hitt from infancy through adulthood. From Hitt's tour of duty: seven panoramic photographs of the Mindanao countryside; and fifty photographs depicting members of the Tausug (Moros), sites and buildings of the area in and around Agusan, Lanao, Marawi, and Panta (Pulau, Indonesia), soldiers and officers of the United States Army, and settlements and encampments on Mindanao and Pulau. A full finding aid is available online [here](#) for the Parker Hitt collection, as well as a [digital archive](#) of all the photographs.

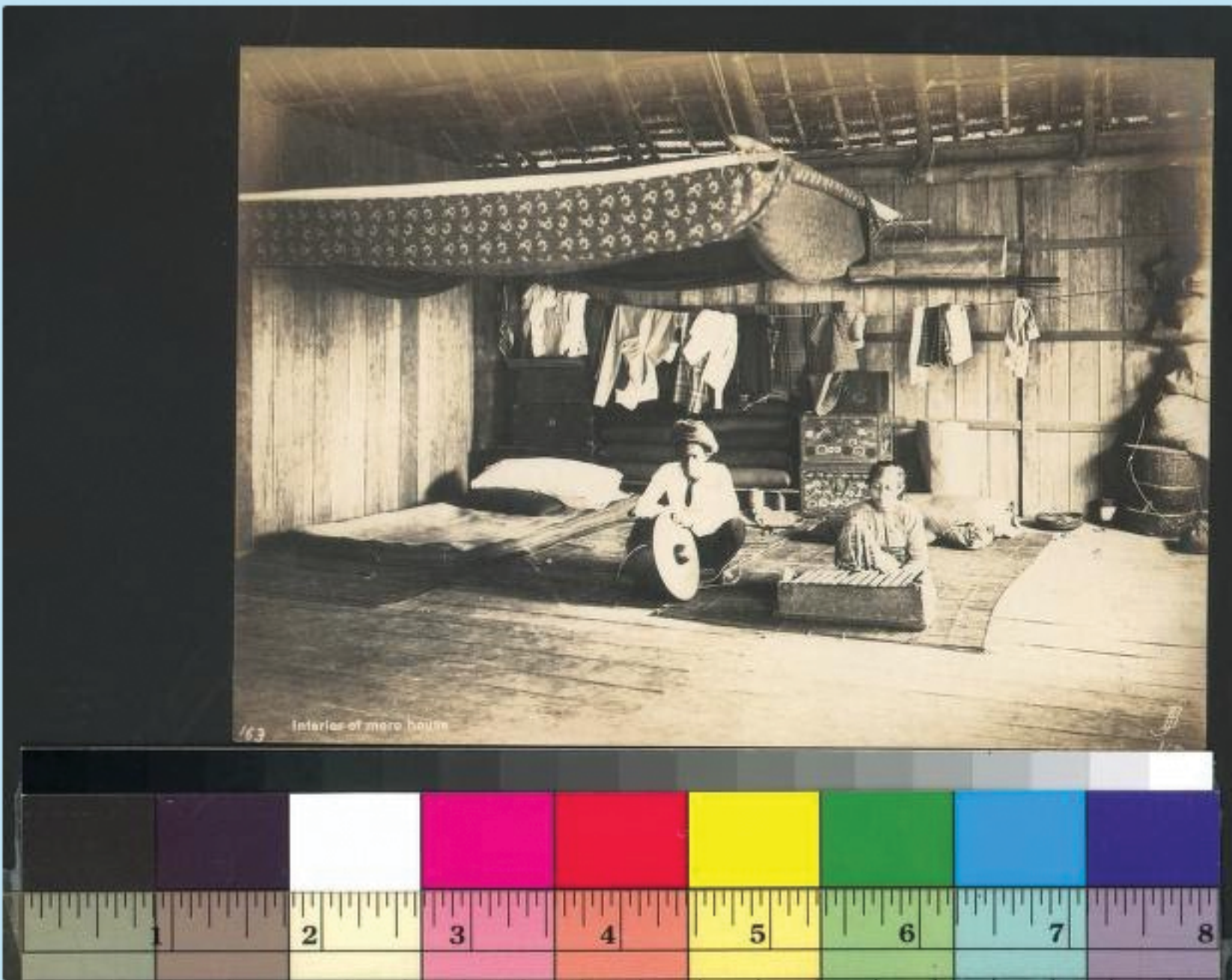
Americans and the Tausug: "Others" or Tourists?



Although the visual medium of the photograph is quite different from the written word, analysis of the two shows some similarities as well. When examining visual sources, one has to put themselves in the frame of mind of the photographer, and the Parker Hitt Photograph Collection provides some fascinating insights.

As stated in the description below, Parker Hitt took about fifty photographs depicting the Tausug ethnic group, otherwise known as the moros. When examining most of these photographs, many of the scenes of the Tausug are staged, with only a few involving American subjects as well. During Hitt's involvement in the Filipino-American War, the 22nd infantry was deployed in the Moro province of the Philippines near Mindanao, often fighting Tausug forces (although some allied with the Americans). The Tausug in turn were not just unfamiliar, they were also enemies at times. The photograph above of Parker Hitt and a group of Tausug raises various questions. Why did Parker Hitt ask these people to take a photograph with him? How long did he spend in these people's area of residence? Who is taking the photograph? And who is the "other" in question? Is it the Tausug, or is it Parker Hitt himself?

Moro Houses and Daily Life



Dattos and Power

Market at Marahui

SUBPAGES (1): "OTHERING" AND THE TAUSUG

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Irene Ellis Murphy papers, 1917–1984

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About the Collection

Irene Ellis Murphy was a social worker, businesswoman, and Democratic Regent of the University of Michigan. The Irene Murphy papers contains materials relating to her life and interest in the Philippines, especially during the administration of Frank Murphy, during World War II, and during the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos. The Irene Murphy papers would be of interest to scholars studying American women in the Philippines, social work in the Philippines, or the Frank Murphy years.

A full finding aid is available online at the Bentley Historical Library's website. The finding aid can be found [here](#).

1933: Arrival in the Philippines

Irene Murphy arrived in the Philippines in 1933 with her husband, J. Harold Murphy, writing home frequently to her sister Hellen Ellis ("LaLa"), as well as an "Aunt Irene" and "Aunt Maggie". In 1933, Ms. Murphy corresponded frequently with her sister, writing detailed descriptions about life in the Philippines, including life in a palace, as well as the weather, and Frank Murphy's daily schedule. Ms. Murphy also briefly recounted her experience of being a "minority" in the Philippines, noting how white people in the Philippines tried to "recreate" their experiences with more intensely because of their minority status. In addition, Ms. Murphy comments on the cultural customs of Filipino society, and notes how the society is still relatively Spanish, despite its independence.

1934: Interactions with Filipinos

In 1934, Irene Murphy has settled into her new life in the Philippines, and describes her experiences with a unique enthusiasm. A large amount of her correspondence in 1934 pertains to daily life, such as the weather, weekend trips, interactions with other Americans, and current events. Despite this, insights into American interaction with native Filipinos can be found. For example, in a letter dated December 10, 1933 to "Aunt Irene", Ms. Murphy calls Filipinos: "...highly bred pets who can detect hypocrisy with a sixth sense," but also takes care to call them gracious and thoughtful. Such a contrast in language might suggest prejudices about native Filipinos, however such assumptions would have to be investigated further. Although Ms. Murphy is particularly forward thinking for her time (fully supporting Frank Murphy's decision to support Philippine independence), it should be noted that the vast majority of her interactions with other Filipinos was with the elite, Spanish-speaking ruling class. Perceptions of lower class Filipinos--if there are any at all--are no doubt influenced by her own interactions with the elites. For example, when traveling the countryside, Ms. Murphy took a shot of a few Igorot men. The photograph is taken from behind the men, who are nearly faceless in the photo. The portrayal begs the question of whether Ms. Murphy is an outsider taking a photograph of a "curiosity", or whether that is not the entire story.

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Prisoner of War Biographies

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Biographies as Secondary Sources

Prior to this project, little thought had been given to reexamining our own holdings at the University of Michigan Library for Philippine history sources due to the strength of Philippine collections at Special Collections and the Bentley Historical Library. It was only upon investigating an obituary of a missionary that the collaborators of this project stumbled upon a modest amount of World War II Prisoner of War Biographies right here in the Hatcher Graduate Library. These accounts are primarily autobiographies of American women's experiences in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. Accounts range from explorations of faith and the struggles of survival to outright fabrication. It should be noted that although these are valid historical sources, a majority of these accounts were edited by historians, and were written many years after the events in question. Thus the narratives presented must be regarded with a critical eye. A handful of these biographies will be explored further on this website.

Captive Community by Fern Harrington Miles

Fern Harrington Miles was a Southern Baptist missionary working in the Philippines before she was captured by the Japanese and interned in Camp Holmes in 1941. The book is based off of a detailed journal Harrington Miles kept during her internment, and also contains elaborate sketches that Harrington Miles drew by salvaging Philippine Army forms. Nevertheless, the book reads like a novel, and was not published until 1987--more than forty years after Harrington Miles' internment. As with all biographies, a word of caution is advised to scholars who choose to use this source as facts could be embellished or incorrect.

That We Might Live by Grace C. Nash

Grace C. Nash was a violinist, teacher, and educator, who recounts her time spent in Japanese internment camps from 1942-1945. Nash spent her time in internment with her husband and two sons, and experienced periods of intense hunger, separation from her family, and constant fear. The account might interest scholars studying American women's experiences in the Philippines or POW accounts of Japanese internment camps.

The Ordeal of Elizabeth Vaughan by Carol M. Petillo

A native of Georgia, Elizabeth Vaughan was a woman well ahead of her time, earning a master's degree in sociology from Vanderbilt University, later traveling to China and the Philippines.

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Uncataloged Materials at the University of Michigan

At the William L. Clements Library there is a large number of uncataloged materials pertaining to Philippine history. The Philippine Digital Project hopes to expand our scope to include these uncataloged materials on this website. As of now, the William L. Clements Library has created a guide for Philippine researchers detailing the majority of cataloged materials from their collection. Uncataloged materials are noted in a footnote at the bottom of the last page. The PDF attached to this page is available for download for researchers. The materials are organized alphabetically.

About the Materials

The Philippine materials at the William L. Clements Library range from the Spanish Colonial period to post-World War II. The majority of materials are accounts by American soldiers or American travelers in the Philippines in the 20th century. Many of the sources used racial epithets to describe native Filipinos and the Japanese--a significant number comment on the current affairs of the day and Filipino independence. Heavily used documents at the Clements include the Douglas MacArthur Collection, the Mary Alice Foley papers, and the Schlereth Family Collection.



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